

CLAIMS

1. Process to improve coagulation comprising adding to the milk, before coagulation treatment, at least one strain of lactic bacteria chosen from *L. plantarum* LMG-P-21385, *L. lactis* subsp. *lactis* LMG-P-21387, *L. lactis* subsp. *lactis* LMG-P-21388 and *L. plantarum* LMG-P-21389.
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2. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said at least one strain is added to the milk in the form of liquid culture.
3. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said at least one strain is added to the milk in anhydrous form.
- 10 4. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said at least one strain is added to the milk in quantities ranging from 0.1 to 1% of liquid culture with respect to the milk (volume/volume).
5. Process as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that said at least one strain is added to the milk in quantities ranging from 0.3 to 0.5% of liquid culture in
15 respect of the milk (volume/volume).
6. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said at least one strain is added to the milk in quantities ranging from 10^{11} to 10^{12} CFU/100 litres of milk.
7. Process as claimed in any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said at least one strain is added to the milk before pasteurization.
- 20 8. Strain of lactic bacteria chosen in the group consisting in *L. plantarum* LMG-P-21385, *L. lactis* subsp. *lactis* LMG-P-21387, *L. lactis* subsp. *lactis* LMG-P-21388 and *L. plantarum* LMG-P-21389.
9. Mixture of lactic bacteria suitable to improve/promote milk coagulation comprising two or more strains as claimed in claim 8.
- 25 10. Use of at least one strain as claimed in claim 8 to improve/promote milk coagulation.
11. Use of at least one strain as claimed in claim 8 to prepare milk derivatives.
12. Use as claimed in claim 11 wherein said derivatives are cheeses and/or yoghurt.
13. Milk containing at least one strain of claim 8 or a mixture as claimed in claim 9.
- 30 14. Milk obtained from the process as claimed in any of the claims from 1 to 7.
15. Dairy product deriving from milk according to claims 13 or 14.